

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, it was an interesting irony. When I woke up this morning, I heard on the radio that this week has been dubbed "Sunshine Week," meaning that there needs to be greater openness and transparency.

We all agree that we need to do everything that we can, as my Democratic colleagues have said, to increase competition and bring the cost of health insurance down. We all agree that that needs to be done. But, Madam Speaker, this measure will not accomplish that at all. We have commonsense solutions that I believe we can utilize and implement in a bipartisan way.

So here we are in the midst of Sunshine Week, and as my colleagues have been saying: What is it that is happening? We are seeing every effort made to try and avoid the kind of transparency, disclosure, and accountability that were promised in that document, "A New Direction for America," that then-Minority Leader PELOSI put forward.

Madam Speaker, I am convinced, I am convinced that we can do better. But we need to make sure that, as we proceed with this process, we have the kind of openness that the American people insist upon.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, every process must end. After dozens of hearings on health care, we have all of the information that we need to create strong legislation to provide much needed health insurance reform. The American people cannot wait. It is time to vote.

Rising health care costs are crushing families and businesses, forcing small business owners to choose between health care and jobs. This isn't about politics or poll numbers. This is about making good on the promise of providing every American access to high quality, affordable health care. This is about having the courage to do what is right.

By voting for health insurance reform now, we are supporting the millions of Americans who quietly struggle every day with a system that works better for the insurance companies than it does for them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, to join us in helping the American people by voting for health insurance reform now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, the United States is the largest economy

in the world. We are bigger than our four next competitors, and we got there through personal freedom and individual choice. We didn't get there by government management.

Now, countries in Europe, we have heard a lot about the fact that they have government-run health care, but that is not America. We are distinct. We place our faith in the individual. We compete, but we don't compete with the government.

The Federal Government should not be given the power to make health care choices for you or your family or to force you, as a taxpayer, as a citizen, to pay for an abortion when it violates your values.

Let's listen to the majority of Americans. Let's start over. Let's have an American plan. Let's work on solutions that are consistent with our traditions of choice, freedom, and put our faith in the individual, not the government.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of finally passing health reform.

This bill is the product of countless hearings, hundreds of amendments, and a full year of national public debate. It is time to vote.

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, without reform, health care costs for American families will rise by as much as 79 percent in the next 10 years. That is unsustainable for taxpayers, for small businesses, for families.

The bill we will pass this week will take the necessary steps to rein in these costs. It creates incentives to reduce preventable hospital readmission; it eliminates wasteful overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans; and it increases our capabilities to fight fraud, waste, and abuse.

Passing health reform means lower costs for patients, better access to higher quality care, and, at long last, accountability for insurance companies.

I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, let's move our Nation forward by passing health reform this week.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, the American people are speaking, and I think we should listen even as the House leadership again prepares to force through a partisan government takeover of health care.

The bill includes hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes and more than \$1 trillion in new government spending.

Strong-arm tactics and legislative gimmicks should not be used to jam through a bill which will impact the life of every single American.

We need to focus on true reform which lowers health care costs, limits unnecessary lawsuits, and expands access by allowing purchasing across the State lines for health insurance, not simply a takeover which we already know will not control costs.

That is the type of reform Americans want, not this one-size-fits-all approach, putting bureaucrats between doctors and their patients.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. I had a remarkable American in my office this morning, Gary Hall, who won five golds, three silvers, and two bronzes in three Olympic Games in freestyle swimming, a remarkable person. And he told me a story about having insurance for 12 years while he was in the Olympics, but then after he lost the Olympics, he couldn't get insurance. Do you know why? He has diabetes.

Here is a guy who won gold, silver, and bronze medals and couldn't get insurance in America because he had diabetes. And the reason he couldn't get insurance in America is that we haven't passed our health care reform bill yet.

In the next few days, we are going to put up at least 216 votes, I hope, green lights on that board, to pass health care reform so that Gary Hall can get insurance; and even if you haven't won a gold medal, you can get insurance if you have diabetes. And these people who are smoking something, I don't know what, who think we aren't going to take a vote on this, I am going to take a picture of this board to show you the votes, because the green lights are going to be to make sure that people with diabetes can get insurance, and the red lights will be you can't get insurance even if you have won a gold medal. That is not right. It is going to change in this country.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. There are many problems with the Senate's government takeover of health care, problems with cuts to Medicare, problems with the Cornhusker kickback, problems with the massive job-killing taxes, problems with Federal funding of abortion, but the latest problem is that the majority doesn't have the votes to pass it.

Rather than finally listening to the American people's rejection of this misguided bill, the majority is planning to abuse the legislative process to